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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2577
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS PRIORITY
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS CARACAS 000183

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS TO AID/OTI (RPORTER)
HQ SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [VE](#)
SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 15 TERM LIMITS REFERENDUM: BY THE NUMBERS

(SBU) The following statistics provide background information regarding Venezuela's February 15 referendum on eliminating term limits for all elected positions:

ELECTION DAY

Polls Open: 6:00am (5:30am EST)
Polls Close: 18:00pm (17:30pm EST)
Polling Places: 11,297
Electronic Voting Machines: 34,541
Digital Fingerprint Scanning Machines: 11,422
States that will Deploy Digital Fingerprint Scanning Machines: 8
Polling Places that will be Equipped with Digital Fingerprint Scanning Machines: 3,658
Poll Workers Required on Election Day: 101,397
Eligible Voters: 16,767,511
Registered Voters Living Abroad Eligible to Vote: 57,368
Number of Voters in Washington, DC: 1464
Number of Voters in Miami: 15,846
Number of Voters in Houston: 2195
Number of Voters in New York: 2116
Number of Voters in Havana: 1464
Number of Voters in Puerto Rico: 874
Current Presidential Term Limit: 2 terms
Presidential Term: 6 years
Current National Assembly Term Limit: 3 terms
National Assembly Term: 5 years
Gubernatorial Term Limit: 2 terms
Gubernatorial Term: 4 years
Mayoral Term Limit: 2 terms
Mayoral Term: 4 years
Days Before Elections in Which Polls May Not be Made Public: 7
Hours Before Elections in Which Alcohol May Not be Sold: 40
Members of the Armed Forces Working on Election Day: 140,000
Estimated Voting Time Per Voter: 20 seconds
Allowed Time Per Vote: 3 minutes
Months Since Nationwide State and Local Elections: 3
Months Until Nationwide Municipal Council Elections: 6

PREVIOUS ELECTIONS

Pro-Government Governors Elected in 2008: 17
Opposition Governors Elected in 2008: 5
Percent of "No" Votes in 2007 Constitutional Reform Referendum: 51%
Percent of Votes Chavez Won in 2006 Presidential Race: 62%
Percent of Votes Chavez Won in 2004 Recall Referendum: 59%
Rate of Abstention in 2008 State and Local Elections: 35%
Rate of Abstention in 2007 Constitutional Reform Referendum: 44%
Rate of Abstention in 2006 Presidential Race: 25%

Rate of Abstention in 2005 Parliamentary Elections (boycotted
by Opposition): 75%

ELECTION MONITORING

Political Organizations Registered with "Yes" Campaign: 16
Political Organizations Registered with the "No" Campaign: 34
Voting Machines Audited In Presence of "Yes" and "No"
Campaign witnesses: 200
Percentage of Voting Machines Audited on Election Day: 54.3%
CNE Invited National Election Observers: 1200
International Election Observer Missions: 0
Venezuelan Civil Society Groups Accredited to Observe
Elections: 4
Estimated Percentage of Voting Tables "No" Poll Watchers Will
Cover: 90%
Embassy Personnel Involved in Informal Election Observation:
33

CAULFIELD